

# **DRAFT**

# **R. F. Clement Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area**

## **Fifteen Year Area Management Plan FY 2015-2029**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** R. F. Clement Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area, # 8132
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1981
- **Acreage:** 520 acres
- **County:** Dent
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage to maximize benefits provided to wildlife, timber, woodland resources; and provide compatible recreational opportunities.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition is a healthy forest and woodland complex that will support a healthy wildlife population and encourage recreational use.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** None
- B. Natural Areas:** None

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** No species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** None
- D. Other:** Three dolomite bluffs/cliffs are present on the area. Two west-facing bluffs are up to 40 feet high and the south-facing bluff is up to 30 feet high. These cliffs/bluffs provide habitat for reptiles and amphibians.

### III. Existing Infrastructure

- 2 parking lots
- 1 hunting blind, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- 5 wildlife watering holes

#### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. **Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. **Easements:** None
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department's Resource Policy Manual.
- E. **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Two old wells/cisterns exist on the area.
- F. **Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. **Boundary Issues:** None

### MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The R.F. Clement Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area was in the forest crop land program from 1965 through the time of Department ownership. The only management work accomplished prior to the Department's ownership was the planting of shortleaf pine in the old fields. Since acquiring the property in 1981, management work done by the Department has been to thin the pine with pine post sales, put in three 1-acre food plots, build an ADA accessible hunting blind and establish a service road. The first hardwood timber sale was completed in the summer of 2012. Care was used to protect the rocky cliffs/bluffs and put in Best Management Practices to care for the watershed.

This area offers some unique and interesting features in the large rock, steep slopes/bluffs. These unique features limit access at several areas to walk-in traffic only, but make for some very scenic hikes.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Managing forest and woodland community management to maximize both timber and wildlife.
- 2) Protecting the rocky cliffs/bluffs communities.

**Management Objective 1:** Manage forest and woodland communities to maximize both timber and wildlife.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain the current inventory cycle of re-entry every 15 years.  
(Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement prescriptions from forest inventory in a timely manner.  
(Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Periodically monitor the area for die-back and/or other issues.  
(Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Where feasible, consider using prescribed fire to reclaim/enhance woodland communities. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Protect rocky cliffs/bluffs communities.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain a 150-foot buffer around the dolomite cliffs. (Forestry).

**Strategy 2:** Where feasible, use prescribed fire to benefit these communities.  
(Forestry)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

Currently the area has five ponds strategically located across 520 acres. Four of these are small fishless wildlife watering holes. One is an old shallow farm pond approximately one-quarter of an acre. There are some small bluegills in this pond, but no real fishing opportunities for public recreational use.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

Maintaining ponds in current locations to provide watering sources for wildlife.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain the five permanent watering sources for area wildlife.

**Strategy 1:** Every three to five years, clear all woody plants from dams.

**Strategy 2:** Every three to five years, check for any water holding problems.

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintaining three 1-acre forest openings as wildlife food plots.
- 2) Improving educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Building relationships with neighboring land owners.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain three 1-acre forest openings as wildlife food plots.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain current openings with mechanical means and plant either perennial green browse and/or annual cereal grains. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Communicate to the general public recreational opportunities (e.g., through brochures, the Conservation Atlas database, and radio). (Protection, Wildlife, Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Communicate to teachers, students, scout groups and youth groups the uniqueness of the area to provide a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs and workshops. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

**Management Objective 3:** Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring land owners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass or any other issues affecting the conservation area or private property. (Protection, Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services, Forestry)

## **VII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintaining area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Assuring Department boundaries are properly marked and signed, and visible to public users.
- 3) Land acquisition.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

**Strategy 1:** With the assistance of Design and Development, maintain the two gravel parking lots. (Design and Development, Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Assure Department boundaries are marked, signed and visible to public users.

**Strategy 1:** Continue the current five year re-entry to maintain painted boundary lines and replace signs, as needed. (Forestry)

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered. (Forestry)

## MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
<b>Terrestrial Resources Management</b>															
Objective 1															
Strategy 1											X				
Strategy 2												X	X	X	
Strategy 3	X					X					X				
Strategy 4												X	X	X	
Objective 2															
Strategy 1	X					X					X				
Strategy 2	X					X					X				
<b>Aquatic Resource Management</b>															
Objective 1															
Strategy 1			X				X				X				
Strategy 2			X				X				X				
<b>Public Use Management</b>															
Objective 3															
Strategy 1	X					X					X				
<b>Administrative Considerations</b>															
Objective 1															
Strategy 1			X			X			X						
Objective 2															
Strategy 1	X					X					X				

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

The 520 acre Richard F. Clement Memorial Forest and Wildlife area is located in northwestern Dent County, approximately 17 miles northwest of Salem and 14 miles southeast of Rolla. The Department acquired this area in 1981. Management focuses on maximizing benefits to provide a healthy forest community and wildlife production. State route OO runs through the extreme northern portion of the tract. County Road 2110 runs through the tract from southwest to northeast.

The entire 520 acres is forested, except for three 1-acre wildlife food plots. These are managed mechanically to increase public viewing and hunting opportunities. One food plot contains an enclosed ADA accessible hunting blind.

The area contains some unique rocky cliffs/bluffs. Three of these have been noted in the natural history review. They do limit access to some parts of the area, but add to the hiker's/area user's walk-in experience.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Upland Forest	349	67
Shortleaf Pine	82	16
Woodland	62	12
Bottomland/Riparian Forest	23	4.25
Open Land/Food Plots	3	0.5
Impounded Water	1	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100</b>

### References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1983). *Richard Clement Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area plan*, March 25, 1983.

Missouri Department of Conservation. n.d. *Missouri Department of Conservation atlas database*.

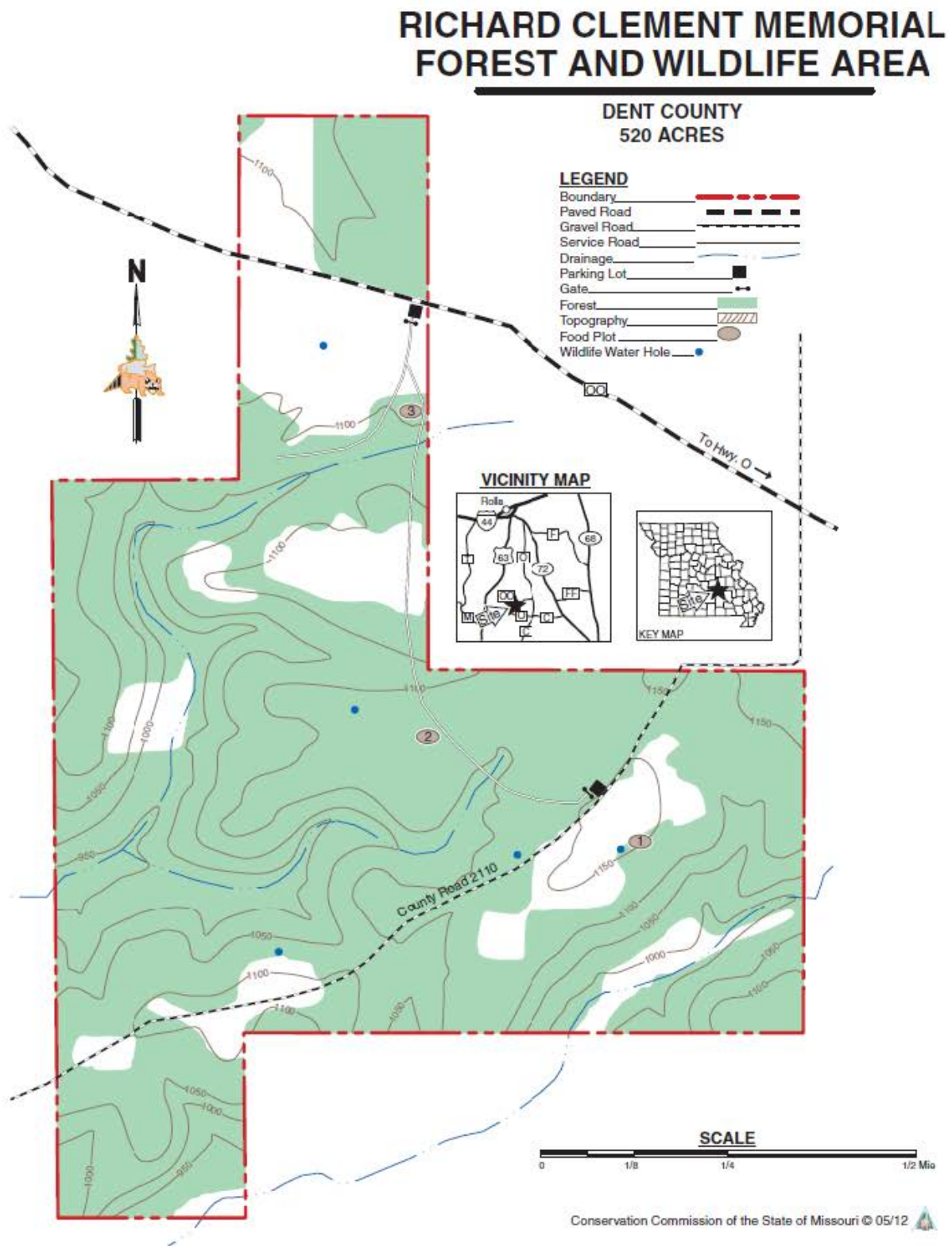
### Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

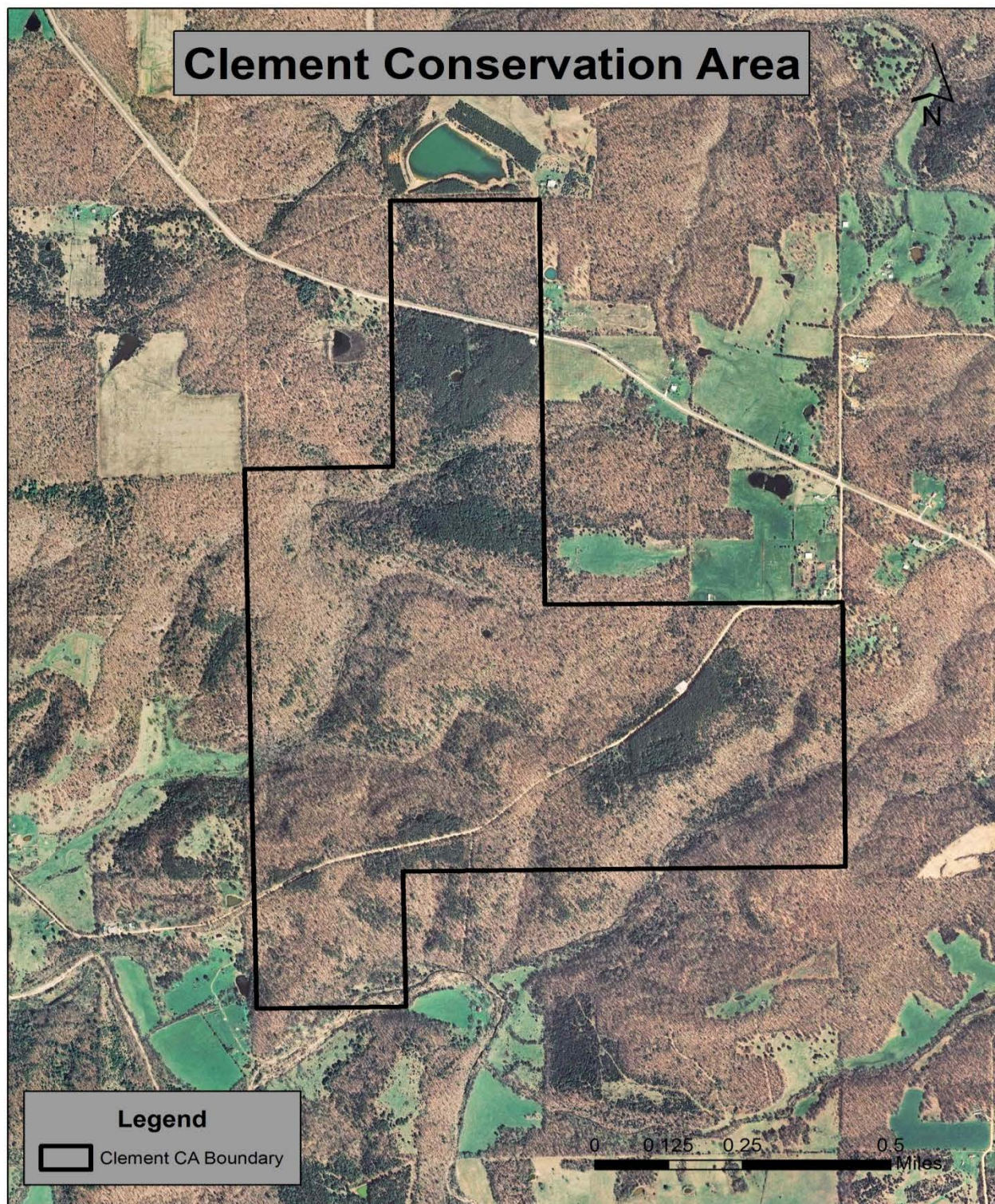
Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 1. Area Map



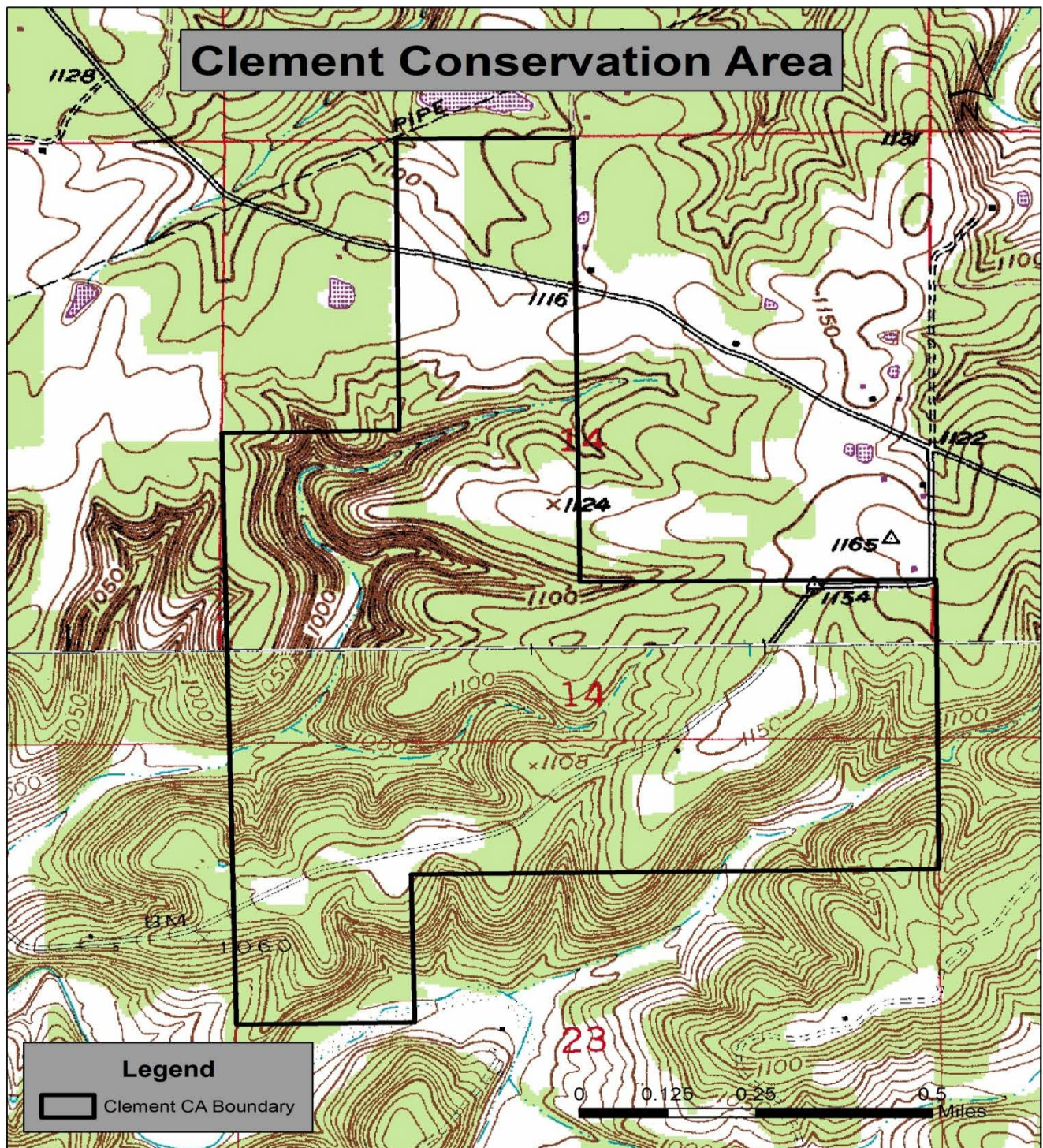


**Figure 2: Aerial Map**





### Figure 3: Topographic Map



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